

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 CU-04 NIC-01 SS-14 NSC-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3369
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 197

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS PINT SF

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER VORSTER DEFENDS NUSAS BANNINGS

REF: A) CAPE TOWN 158 B) CAPE TOWN 189 AND PREVIOUS

1. SPEAKING MARCH 10 AT NATIONALIST PARTY RALLY IN KROONSTAD, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER SAID " THIS GOVERNMENT WILL ACT THE WAY IT DID (IN BANNING NUSAS LEADERS) EVERY TIME IT IS NECESSARY, EVERY TIME SOUTH AFRICA' S INTERESTS ARE AT STAKE." MARCH 12 CAPE TIMES REPORTS VORSTER CLAIMED GOVERNMENT COULD NOT HAVE DONE OTHERWISE IN FACE OF UNANIMOUS BIPARTISAN REPORT CALLING FOR " URGENT ACTION." ACCORDING TO TIMES, VORSTER SAID ONLY MEANS OF REMOVING NUSAS LEADERS WAS IN TERMS OF SUPPRESSION OF COMMUNISM ACT AND, ALTHOUGH LEADERS NOT ACCUSED OF BEING COMMUNISTS, THEY COULD BE (AND WERE) BANNED IF IT DETERMINED THAT THEIR ACTIONS SUPPORTED AIMS OF COMMUNISM.

2. VORSTER, IN DEFENDING PARLIAMENTARY RATHER THAN JUDICIAL ACTION, SAID " THIS INCLINATION TO SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY (FOR ACTION FROM PARLIAMENT) TO LEGAL COMMISSIONS MUST COME TO AN END. WE (PARLIAMENT) MUST BE MAN ENOUGH TO CARRY THE RESPONSIBILITY OURSELVES." THESE STATEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BROUGHT CRITICAL RESONSE FROM ACADEMIC LAWYERS INCLUDING PROFESSOR
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J. D. VAN DER VYVER, DEAN OF POTCHEFSTROOM LAW FACULTY, WHO IS
QUOTED BY TIMES AS SAYING " THE EXECUTIG TO EXTENT FEASIBLE.
MIDDENDORF

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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